

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/746,914

Examiner

Namitha Pillai

Applicant(s)

SNOWDON ET AL.

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to communication filed 4/13/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-31.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 23 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 4/11/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2173

DETAILED ACTION

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows: A period is missing at the end of claim 15, therefore, the claim has been amended to "The electronic board system of claim 13, wherein the external service comprises audio information."

The specification under "CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS", the application information is updated with the proper US Serial Number. The application referred to by Attorney Docket Number D/A0034 is replaced with US Serial Number 09/746, 917. The application referred to by Attorney Docket Number D/99457 is replaced with US Serial Number 09/746, 913 in addition to this application being updated with "issued as U. S. Patent No. 6, 873, 430".

Response to Claim Changes

2. The Examiner acknowledges Applicants amendments to claim 1 to better specify the present invention.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1-31 are allowed. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With respect to claim 1, International Publication WO 99/19804 (Mainwaring et al.), herein referred to as Mainwaring serves as the primary reference which teaches an electronic board displaying items of interest to a plurality of users. Mainwaring does not clearly teach a group-based recommendation criteria for determining which items to be further displayed in the electronic board system, and furthermore, Mainwaring does not explicitly teach which items to displayed based on the group-based recommendation criteria and sensed user interest in a particular area. Mainwaring also does not teach displaying more item on the screen that are similar to items in the sensed areas at the expense of items in areas where there is less user interest. Further references such as U. S. Patent No. 6, 236, 980 B1 (Reese) teach group-based recommendation criteria, wherein items are displayed based on recommendations made by a distinct group, but this reference does not teach an electronic board system and further sensing mechanisms, wherein the motivation provided to combine Mainwaring and Reese does not prove to be strong. References also teach relying on sensing mechanisms for determining where to display distinct items, wherein these references include U. S. Patent No. 6, 034, 652 (Freiberger et al.), which teach relying on user sensing mechanisms to determine user's interests but does not include group-based recommendation criteria and the display of these items in an electronic board systems. The components taught in the claim 1 of this invention includes various distinct features that are applicable to this electronic board system, wherein including a display that is viewable to a plurality of users, wherein in addition the group-based recommendation criteria and user sensing mechanisms to display additional items would prove this claim to be allowable. Such a combination of various features applicable to one electronic board system would deem the claim 1 has allowable for including various set features in one system. Furthermore, the prior

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art disclosed, would not prove for a valid combination, wherein a strong motivation would be lacking with three systems that are not analogous to each other.

Since claims 2-31 depend on claim 1 and include all of the limitations of this claim, claims 2-31 are considered allowable for the reasons in which claim 1 is allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by Applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record on form PTO-892 and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Namitha Pillai whose telephone number is (703) 305-7691. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:30 PM.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (703) 308-3116.

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800.

Namitha Pillai
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 2173
April 29, 2005



RAYMOND J. BAYERL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 2173